

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SY-05 MCT-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CU-02 /075 W
-----101839Z 126164 /44

P 101806Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9311

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJECT: VIKTOR LOUIS ON TERRORIST INCIDENT IN MOSCOW

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BYLINED "FROM VICTOR LOUIS IN MOSCOW," WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE ONE OF JANUARY 10TH ISSUE OF LONDON "EVENING NEWS," UNDER HEADLINE, "KILLER BOMB ON MOSCOW TUBE."

2. BEGIN TEXT. A TERRORIST BOMB EXPLODED IN A CROWDED TRAIN IN MOSCOW'S UNDERGROUND KILLING AND INJURING PASSENGERS, IT WAS REVEALED TODAY.

THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS DESCRIBED THE BLAST AS "SMALL" AND SAID IT CAUSED SOME CASUALTIES. BUT REPORTS CIRCULATING IN MOSCOW SAID MANY PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED OR MAIMED.

THE BOMB WAS PLANTED TWO DAYS AGO WHEN THE TRAINS WERE CROWDED WITH HOLIDAYMAKERS CELEBRATING THE RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS.

MANY PASSENGERS WERE SAID TO BE CHILDREN ON THEIR WAY TO SPECIAL CHRISTMAS THEATRE SHOWS.

THE BOMB WENT OFF IN A SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA BETWEEN IZAMAILOVSKAYA AND PERVOMAYSKAYA STATIONS.

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OFFICIAL SOURCES HINTED IT MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY A SOVIET DISSIDENT GROUP AND COMPARING THEM TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BADER MEINHOF TERRORIST GROUP IN WEST GERMANY AND THE SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY WHICH KIDNAPPED AMERICAN HEIRESS PATTY HEARST.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSION HAVE NOT BEEN CAUGHT, IT WAS SAID.

THE KREMLIN RARELY RELEASES NEWS OF TERRORISTS' ACTIVITIES OR DISASTERS SUCH AS PLANE CRASHES.

SOME MUSCOVITES FEEL THE PROBLEM OF CONTEMPORARY VIOLENCE HERE IS DUE TO THE UNCONTROLLED FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM THE WEST.

THERE IS GROWING CONCERN IN THE PRESS AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES OF THE EFFECT OF PUBLICISING WORLD WIDE ACTS OF TERRORISM.

THERE ARE FEARS CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN RUSSIA MAY COPY THEM.

RECENTLY THE RUSSIAN CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON FOR ONE NEWSPAPER WAS RECALLED TO MOSCOW AND SEVERELY REPRIMANDED FOR FILING COLOURFUL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PATTY HEARST CASE.

DISSIDENT RUSSIAN GROUPS HAVE COPIED WESTERN TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES BEFORE. ONCE A FATHER AND SON HIJACKED A PLANE TO TURKEY, KILLING A STEWARDESS.

IT IS BEING ASSUMED IN MOSCOW THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TUBE EXPLOSION ARE MENTALLY UNSTABLE--AND STATISTICS ARE BEING QUOTED SHOWING THAT THOSE WHO THREATEN THE LIVES OF OTHERS ARE GENERALLY SO. END TEXT

3. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY LOUIS' ABILITY TO CONDEMN URBAN TERRORISM WITH A TUG AT THE HEARTSTRINGS ("MANY PASSENGERS WERE SAID TO BE CHILDREN . . .") AND SMOOTHLY GO ON TO BLAME SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE USSR ON THE " . . . UNCONTROLLED FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM THE WEST."

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4. WOULD WELCOME MOSCOW'S COMMENTS ON THIS RATHER ODD, THINLY VEILED ATTACK ON THE CSCE BASKET III ISSUE OF FREEFLOW OF INFORMATION.

ARMSTRONG

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